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Comments: I am an ecologist. I am opposed to many parts of the disturbance hazardous tree management plan. First, dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness--they serve as important fertilizer for future trees and as food for millions of insects, fungi, etc. that help with proper forest ecosystem function. Removing them will leave the ecosystems more damaged than before, depauperate, and with disrupted ecosystem function.

I oppose using chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness. The noise and the fossil fuels disrupt forest creatures and pollute the wilderness we are supposedly trying to protect. The Forest Service should use crosscut saws, not chainsaws, to clear trails of only the fallen trees that must be removed.

Wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails. If there are some places that humans cannot go, so be it--the wilderness will be better off for it.

The Forest Service needs to exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries.